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(54) The CD40CR receptor and ligands therefor.

(57) The present invention relates to a counter-receptor, termed CD40CR, for the CD40 B-cell antigen, and to soluble ligands for this receptor, including fusion molecules comprising at least a portion of CD40 protein. It is based, at least in part, on the discovery that a soluble CD40/immunoglobulin fusion protein was able to inhibit helper T-cell mediated B-cell activation by binding to a novel 39 kD protein receptor on helper T-cell membranes. The present invention provides for a substantially purified CD40CR receptor; for soluble ligands of CD40CR, including antibodies as well as fusion molecules comprising at least a portion of CD40 protein; and for methods of controlling B-cell activation which may be especially useful in the treatment of allergy or autoimmune disease.

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EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number
EP 93 10 2279

DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT		
Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim
A	TISSUE ANTIGENS vol. 36, no. 1, July 1990, COPENHAGEN, DENMARK pages 33 - 36 E. CLARK 'CD40, a cytokine receptor in search for a ligand.' * the whole document *	1-4
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The present search report has been drawn up for all claims		
Place of search THE HAGUE		Date of completion of the search 21 March 1994
Examiner Noofj, F		
CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS		
X : particularly relevant if taken alone Y : particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category A : technological background O : oral-written disclosure P : intermediate document		
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EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number
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DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT		
Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim
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The present search report has been drawn up for all claims		
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CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS		
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T : theory or principle underlying the invention E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date D : document cited in the application L : document cited for other reasons @ : member of the same patent family, corresponding document		

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